

NETWORK INTERFACE FOR DOCUMENT PROCESSING DEVICES

ABSTRACT

5 A method and apparatus is provided for operating a network based
assembly for document processing when the assembly includes an intelligent Network
Interface Controller (iNIC), a Document Processing Device (DPS) and a Digital Front
End (DFE) for the DPS. Job data and control data communicated to the assembly
through the network are communicated solely through the iNIC functioning as a
10 threshold to the DPS assembly. The iNIC segregates any such data to identify job
data that needs to be communicated to the DFE from other data that can be directly
communicated to the DPS. Enhanced communication efficiency results from directly
communicating control data to the DPS to avoid bottleneck communication of all data
through the DFE.